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PATENT
52201-0607

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Heinz Fabian
U.S. Serial No.: 10/045,441
Filed : November 7, 2001
Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING AN SiO_2 BLANK AND
APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING SAID METHOD
Examiner : Timothy Meeks
Art Unit : 1762

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: June 30, 2003.

Andrew L. Tiajolloff
Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative

[Signature]
Signature

June 30, 2003
Date of Signature

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith a Search Report from the European Patent Office together with a PTO 1449 form listing the references cited in that EPO Search Report.

Applicant also submits herewith an English language abstract of the cited reference DE 196 29 170 A1, which should aid in assessing the relevance of the reference.

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Specifically, the references were cited in a corresponding European patent application Search Report dated April 23, 2003, which was less than three months prior to the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement on June 30, 2003.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being made prior to any action in relation to this application, and it is believed that no fee is required for entry of these references on the record. If, however, any fee should be required for this submission, please deduct the fee from deposit account 501659.

Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone attorney for applicants at 212-490-3285.

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Respectfully submitted,



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